

wisdom and the voice of experience that has guided our state legislature. When we are faced with a turnover fifty to seventy percent in a state legislature and those members can come in with new ideas and secret ambitions and can get together in private caucuses and vote to install new leadership in our house without experience, without wisdom in the conduct of legislation, they can hide beyond that secret ballot and install in the House and the Senate new leadership without the experience and wisdom of the times gone by, then I say that for them to do that in secret would be the perpetration upon the State of Maryland of an injustice while satisfying their own personal ambitions.

I say this. That you know what would happen. They would conspire for this leadership and that leadership and no one would know until the secret ballot was cast what was behind it all. I say that our procedure of open elections has served our people well and kept them informed, and every delegate, whether he be a Young Turk or old experienced man, would have to face and stand behind his vote in the open.

I think for the welfare of the future of Maryland that we maintain these elections for the officer of our House of Delegates and for the State Senate in absolute openness so that if they have any secret ambition or they face any conspiracies behind the door they will have to face up to them.

I think only by that method of open elections can we have our House of Delegates and the State Senate elected to the proper advantage to all people of the State of Maryland.

I am hoping you will reconsider this matter and that you will reject this amendment to elect them in secret.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any further discussion?

Delegate Gill.

DELEGATE GILL: Mr. President, fellow delegates, the other day when this question was debated, one delegate spoke for the voice of democracy. I do not think a stronger plea could be made than in the voice of democracy but I take the opposite side. I do not feel it is undemocratic that when I vote for President of the United States, and congressmen, or the governor, and the city and elective officers, I go into secret place in the polling place and mark a secret ballot. I do not think that is undemocratic. As a matter of fact, I think it is most democratic.

The fact that I know there is no intimidation, there is no retaliation, that I have a chance in solitude to decide on the best candidate to get the best people in office is a great advantage. I can see that advantage in electing people that will lead the legislature because they will be leading the ones who help make the laws and directly affect the lives of everybody in Maryland.

I think it is a great advantage to elect the officers who will lead both houses by a secret ballot where they will not have to face anything or be afraid of anything.

I agree with Delegate Burdette that if we could get to, not just the caucus, but the caucus before the caucus, where the nominees are really selected, there it would be a different question. But when the date for the caucus is announced and the meeting is held, the nominees have already been decided and the people simply fall in line. There may be a few changes, but the changes will be minor. With the secret ballot I think you will be able to get best candidates for the position without any retaliation or without any intimidation and it will serve the aim of democracy in trying to represent the people and let the people take part in the democratic process. They believe, they want to know what is going on, I want to know what is going on, but it is not important that I know how they vote for the leaders, how they make the laws. It is important we know everything after the leaders are selected. I think secret ballot will help eliminate the politics that are in politics.

*(Applause.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Lloyd Taylor.

DELEGATE L. TAYLOR: I move the previous question.

*(The motion was duly seconded.)*

THE PRESIDENT: All those in favor, signify by saying Aye; contrary, No. The Ayes have it. It is so ordered.

The question arises on the motion to reconsider the vote by which Amendment No. 10 to Committee Recommendation LB-1, LB-2, and LB-3 as amended by Report S&D-16 was adopted. The question now is on the reconsideration. A vote Aye is a vote in favor of reconsideration. A vote No is a vote against. Cast your vote.

*(Whereupon, a roll call vote was taken.)*

Has every delegate voted?

Delegate Boileau.